



PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT: FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR STATES

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- It is essential that States have a source of flexible funding to confront unexpected health challenges. States use flexible PHHS Block Grant funds to mobilize rapid responses to immediate, new, and emerging threats to public health and to address health problems as they arise in communities.
- State Health Departments do not have adequate funding to combat all of the leading causes of illness, injury, disability and death in their States. States use flexible PHHS Block Grant funds to develop programs that lack sufficient funding from other sources.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) gives its 61 grantees (50 states, the District of Columbia, 2 American Indian Tribes, and 8 U.S. territories) the autonomy and flexibility to tailor prevention and health promotion programs to their particular needs. Approximately 94% of PHHSBG funds are distributed directly to communities. In 2002, CDC implemented a new evaluation component to PHHSBG reporting systems which ties Healthy People 2010 Objectives to Public Health's 10 Essential Services, and includes detailed reporting on program activities funded with block grant dollars and their impact on identified health problems.

Examples of programs in action: In New York, PHHSBG funds support the Childhood Lead Poisoning Program, which found 2,568 children to have elevated blood lead levels. In Illinois, PHHSBG funds are supporting a new program called HI TRACK to screen all newborns for congenital hearing loss before they leave the hospital. In Kansas, the Center for Health and Wellness in northeast Wichita used PHHSBG funds to provide 9,649 blood pressure checks and referred 1,328 people for follow-up. PHHSBG is the sole source of funding for the Promoting Lifetime Activity for Youth (PLAY) program in Arizona. Approximately 1,000 teachers and 28,000 students in high-risk rural communities participate in the PLAY program, which encourages children to form habits that will help reduce their risk for chronic diseases. Idaho used PHHSBG funds to distribute 3,107 child safety seats. In Ohio, PHHSBG funds launched 21 cardiovascular health projects to increase the number of heart-healthy communities in areas of Ohio at high risk for heart disease. In California, PHHSBG funds helped to create The California Asthma Among School-Aged Children Project.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Information from new PHHSBG evaluation and reporting systems will increase CDC's ability to help states obtain optimum benefit from these scarce flexible dollars. New detailed program information will allow policy-makers to note trends in state needs and track the impact of the PHHS Block Grant. States will use a new electronic application system as both a priority-setting and program-planning tool. A web-based grant application and reporting system is proposed for 2003. This system will help states better identify and meet the needs of those people most in need of services.

For more information on this and other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/programs.

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